Middle (6-8) Menu of Options

Please note: This list is a starting point for your discussion on how to balance the assessment system. If you choose to use this menu, keep in mind that your group does not have to make a decision in every box. These are only suggestions. "Other" is always an option.

Characteristics	Formative Strategies	Benchmark	Summative
Grade Level(s)	○ 6 th grade ○ 7 th grade ○ 8 th grade	○ 6 th grade ○ 7 th grade ○ 8 th grade	○ 6 th grade ○ 7 th grade ○ 8 th grade
Academic Content Areas	 Reading O Mathematics Science O Soc Studies O Lang Arts Writing Other: 	 Reading O Mathematics Science O Soc Studies O Lang Arts Writing Other: 	 ○ Reading ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ Soc Studies ○ Lang Arts ○ Writing ○ Other:
Purpose	 to gauge student understanding of a concept during instruction, so teacher can adjust instruction and help student reach the next level of understanding/learning progression. to involve students in understanding their own learning to engage student and teacher in a dialogue around ungraded learning/performance. 	 to check if student is "on track" for gradelevel work to diagnose student learning needs and level of ability (below-, on-, and above-grade level) to monitor progress towards summative test to incorporate into student's grade to provide schools with data on strengths and weaknesses within curricular areas is NOT part of accountability system IS part of accountability system required to administer not required to administer 	 to measure readiness for high school to measure proficiency on grade-level knowledge and skills to provide schools with data on strengths and weaknesses within curricular areas to provide parents and public with information about school/district achievement to meet federal and/or state compliance is NOT part of accountability system IS part of accountability system required to administer not required to administer
Frequency	 hourly throughout instruction daily throughout instruction on-the-fly assessment planned-for interaction curriculum-embedded assessment 	 monthly, quarterly teacher determines – as often as needed district determines – as often as needed other: 	 annually in the fall annually in the spring up to 3x, stop when "proficient" (if online) other:
Delivery Mode	teacher incorporates into instructionstudents evaluate own learning	computer-basedpaper/pencilperformance skills demo w/rubric scoring	computer-basedpaper/pencilperformance skills demo w/rubric scoring
Professional Development	 effective, targeted questioning strategies how to modify "grading" practices to provide specific, targeted feedback student self-assessment of progress districts develop and organize own PD 	 how to understand assessment results what to do next instructionally how to create instruction that is differentiated to meet diverse student needs districts develop and organize own PD 	 how to understand assessment results how to review curriculum and programs within a school or district to determine effectiveness and plan improvements public understanding of what results do and do not say about school effectiveness
& Training	 common PD across state via CESAs, state education orgs, and DPI coordinate with higher ed (pre-service & post) coordinate with teacher & admin licensing 	 common PD across state via CESAs, state education orgs, and DPI coordinate with higher ed (pre-service & post) coordinate with teacher & admin licensing 	 districts develop and organize own PD some common PD across state via CESAs, state education orgs, and DPI coordinate with higher ed (pre-service & post) coordinate with teacher & admin licensing
Report Mode	verbal feedback to studentwritten feedback to studentother:	○ electronic/on-line ○ paper	○ electronic/on-line ○ paper
Report Type	○ no official report ○ other:	 shows current result – single administration shows current compared to previous results gives ideas for what to do next tailored by each student's strengths/needs individual student reports aggregated report (classroom, grade, school) immediacy of student reports is important immediacy of aggregate report is important 	 shows current result – single administration shows current compared to previous results gives ideas for what to do next tailored by each student's strengths/needs individual student reports aggregated-classroom, grade, school, district immediacy of student reports is important immediacy of aggregate report is important
Roles	 teachers create districts each take their own approach state provides basic structure/content based on work with educators 	 state works directly with educators to continually develop broad bank of assessment items to share across the state state contracts with vendor for pre-made assessment item bank school/district develops or chooses their own assessments 	 state contracts for custom test with vendor, teachers edit/revise proposed test items state fully develops assessments through teacher item-writing workshops/courses state purchases premade assessment (if used for accountability, will require additional component to align to all state standards)
"Looks Like…"	 questioning strategies "toolkit" of feedback strategies student self-assessment 	 multiple choice demonstration of skills open-ended questions pre-made mini-tests on specific skills teacher selects items and builds own test everyone gets the same questions test adapts to responses, tailors to student (if computer-based) 	 multiple choice demonstration of skills open-ended questions everyone gets the same questions test adapts to responses, tailors to student (if computer-based)